

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment places the claims in condition for allowance.

Claims 1- 45 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 12, 13, 19, 23-25, 34 and 40 stand rejected. Claims 4-11, 14-18, 20-22, 26-33, 35-39, 41 and 42 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 23, 27, 29, 30 and 33 are amended by this Amendment and claims 2-4 and 24-26 have been canceled. Claims 43-45 are new. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 12, 13 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,736,884 (“Virgilio”).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 2-4. Amended independent claim 1 recites a separator tank assembly comprising a cast hollow tank having a closed end and an open end with a separator chamber therebetween; a cast lid substantially closing the tank open end; a first integral fluid passage integrally cast in the cast hollow tank and cast lid and extending from the separator chamber to at least one external port, wherein the first integral fluid passage is a compressed air passage and wherein at least a first integral port is formed along the first integral fluid passage between the separator chamber and the external port; wherein the first integral port is configured to receive a separator element; and wherein the first integral port has a first integral separator passage extending from the first integral fluid passage to the separator element and a second integral separator passage extending from the separator element to the first integral fluid passage such that compressed air travels from the separator chamber, through the first integral fluid passage, through the first separator passage, through the separator element, through the second separator passage and through the first integral fluid passage to the external port.

Virgilio is directed to an air-oil separator tank wherein the air-oil mixture is introduced into the interior of the container by means of a nozzle 18 applied on the cover 19. Virgilio fails to teach or suggest wherein the first integral port has a first integral separator passage extending

from the first integral fluid passage to the separator element and a second integral separator passage extending from the separator element to the first integral fluid passage. Virgilio fails to teach or suggest a fluid passage integrally cast into the cast hollow tank. Virgilio's passages are all located in the cast lid. Virgilio does not teach each and every recited limitation, and therefore, does not anticipate the claimed invention.

Claims 12, 13 and 19 depend from amended claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons as amended claim 1, as well as other reasons which, for the sake of brevity, are not discussed.

Claims 23-25, 34, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,736,884 ("Virgilio"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 23 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 24-26. Amended independent claim 23 recites a separator tank assembly comprising a cast hollow tank having a closed end and an open end with a separator chamber therebetween; a cast lid substantially closing the tank open end; a first integral fluid passage integrally cast in the cast hollow tank and cast lid and extending from the separator chamber to a first external port configured for providing compressed air to an external component; a second integral fluid passage integrally cast in the cast hollow tank and cast lid and extending from the separator chamber to a second external port configured for returning cleaned lubricant to an associated compressor assembly; wherein at least a first integral port is formed along the first integral fluid passage between the separator chamber and the first external port; wherein the first integral port is configured to receive a separator element; and wherein the first integral port has a first integral separator passage extending from the first integral fluid passage to the separator element and a second integral separator passage extending from the separator element to the first integral fluid passage such that compressed air travels from the separator chamber, through the first integral fluid passage, through the first separator passage, through the separator element, through the second separator passage and through the first integral fluid passage to the first external port.

Virgilio is directed to an air-oil separator tank wherein the air-oil mixture is introduced into the interior of the container by means of a nozzle 18 applied on the cover 19. Virgilio fails to teach or suggest wherein the first integral port has a first integral separator passage extending from the first integral fluid passage to the separator element and a second integral separator passage extending from the separator element to the first integral fluid passage. Virgilio fails to

teach or suggest a fluid passage integrally cast into the cast hollow tank. Virgilio's passages are all located in the cast lid. Virgilio does not teach each and every recited limitation, and therefore, does not anticipate the claimed invention.

Claims 25, 34 and 40 depend from amended claim 23 and are allowable for the same reasons as amended claim 23, as well as other reasons which, for the sake of brevity, are not discussed.

Conclusion

In light of the amendments and remarks above, the Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment and the allowance of claims 1-45. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Smith". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "D" and a cursive "Smith".

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